

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable orthopedic tool comprising:
 - 1) ~~a shaft portion having comprising:~~
 - ~~a) a first and second ends and a longitudinal axis, an adjustment portion and a fastener receiving portion, the first end comprising a cutting portion configured to drill a hole in bone[[,]]; and the~~
 - ~~b) a second end configured to be coupled to a source of rotational motion;~~
 - ~~c) an adjustment portion comprising external threads; and~~
 - ~~d) a fastener receiving portion configured to receive at least a portion of a cannulated fastener thereon;~~
 - 2) ~~a fastener engaging portion configured to rotationally couple the shaft to the cannulated fastener and transmit rotational motion to the cannulated fastener; and~~
 - 3) ~~an adjustment mechanism mounted on the adjustment portion of the shaft; the adjustment mechanism comprising internal threads adapted to engage the external threads of the adjustment portion of the shaft such that the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft by being rotated with respect to the adjustment portion of the shaft;~~
~~wherein movement of the adjustment mechanism along a longitudinal axis of the shaft moves the fastener engaging portion along the longitudinal axis of the shaft.~~
~~and configured to allow the user to vary a distance between the cutting portion and the fastener engaging portion;~~
~~wherein the fastener receiving portion is configured to receive at least a portion of a cannulated fastener thereon; the fastener engaging portion is configured to rotationally couple the tool to a driving portion of the cannulated fastener to transmit rotational motion thereto; and the adjustment mechanism is selectively movable along the longitudinal axis of the shaft to allow the tool to accept fasteners having different lengths;~~
~~wherein the adjustment portion of the shaft further comprises external threads and the adjustment mechanism further comprises internal threads, the threads are engageable to allow~~

~~the shaft and mechanism to be moved axially along a longitudinal axis of the shaft by rotating the pieces with respect to each other.~~

2. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion and the fastener engaging portion can be rotated at different speeds with respect to one another.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 1, wherein movement of the adjustment mechanism adjusts the distance between the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism and the cutting portion of the shaft.

5. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 4, wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises at least first and second sleeves, the first sleeve comprising inner threads configured to engage the external threads of the shaft and the fastener engaging portion disposed on the second sleeve.

6. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 5, the shaft further comprising a plurality of calibration marks disposed between the adjustment portion and the second end, each calibration mark corresponding to a predetermined distance between the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism and the first end of the shaft.

7. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 6, the first sleeve further having a proximal end, wherein adjusting the adjustment mechanism so that the proximal end of the first sleeve lies adjacent to one of the calibration marks results in the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism being located a predetermined distance from the first end of the shaft corresponding to the mark.

8. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 4, wherein when a cannulated fastener having a head portion and a tip portion is received on the shaft, the distance is adjustable to allow the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment assembly to rotationally

engage the fastener head while allowing at least a first length of the shaft cutting portion to extend distally beyond the fastener tip.

9. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 8, wherein the first length is selected in the range of from about 0 millimeters (mm) to about 10 mm.

10. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 9, wherein the first length is about 1 mm.

11. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 9, wherein the first length is about 4.5 mm

12-37 (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) An adjustable orthopedic tool comprising:

1) a shaft ~~portion having~~ comprising:

a) a first ~~and second ends and a longitudinal axis, an adjustment portion comprising external threads and a fastener receiving portion, the first end comprising a~~ cutting portion configured to drill a hole in bone[[,]]; ~~and the~~

b) a second end configured to be coupled to a source of rotational motion;

c) an adjustment portion comprising external threads; and

d) a fastener receiving portion configured to receive at least a portion of a cannulated fastener thereon;

2) a fastener engaging portion configured to rotationally couple the shaft to the cannulated fastener and transmit rotational motion to the cannulated fastener; and

3) an adjustment mechanism mounted on the adjustment portion of the shaft, the adjustment mechanism comprising:

a) a first sleeve having inner threads configured to engage the external threads of the adjustment portion of the shaft such that the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft by being rotated with respect to the adjustment portion of the shaft; and

b) a second sleeve having the the fastener engaging portion disposed thereon;
wherein the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft to
adjust a distance between the fastener engaging portion and the first end of the shaft.

~~and configured to allow the user to vary a distance between the cutting portion and the fastener engaging portion;~~

~~wherein the fastener receiving portion is configured to receive at least a portion of a cannulated fastener thereon; the fastener engaging portion is configured to rotationally couple the tool to a driving portion of the cannulated fastener to transmit rotational motion thereto; and the adjustment mechanism is selectively movable along the longitudinal axis of the shaft to allow the tool to accept fasteners having different lengths;~~

~~wherein movement of the adjustment mechanism adjusts the distance between the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism and the cutting portion of the shaft; and~~

~~wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises at least first and second sleeves, the first sleeve comprising inner threads configured to engage the external threads of the shaft and the fastener engaging portion disposed on the second sleeve.~~

39. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 38, wherein the cutting portion and the fastener engaging portion can be rotated at different speeds with respect to one another.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 38, the shaft further comprising a plurality of calibration marks disposed between the adjustment portion and the second end, each calibration mark corresponding to a predetermined distance between the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism and the first end of the shaft.

42. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 41, the first sleeve further having a proximal end, wherein adjusting the adjustment mechanism so that the proximal end of the first sleeve lies adjacent to one of the calibration marks results in the

fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism being located a predetermined distance from the first end of the shaft corresponding to the mark.

43. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 38, wherein when a cannulated fastener having a head portion and a tip portion is received on the shaft, the distance is adjustable to allow the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment assembly to rotationally engage the fastener head while allowing at least a first length of the shaft cutting portion to extend distally beyond the fastener tip.

44. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 43, wherein the first length is selected in the range of from about 0 millimeters (mm) to about 10 mm.

45. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 44, wherein the first length is about 1 mm.

46. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 44, wherein the first length is about 4.5 mm.

47. (Previously Presented) An adjustable orthopedic tool configured to receive a fastener having a head portion, a tip portion, and a cannulation, comprising:

1) a shaft comprising:

- a) a first end comprising a cutting portion configured to drill a hole in bone;
- b) a second end configured to be coupled to a source of rotational motion;
- c) an adjustment portion comprising external threads; and
- d) a fastener receiving portion configured to extend into the cannulation of the

fastener;

2) a fastener engaging portion configured to rotationally couple the shaft to the fastener and transmit rotational motion to the fastener; and

3) an adjustment mechanism mounted on the adjustment portion of the shaft, the adjustment mechanism comprising:

a) a first sleeve having inner threads configured to engage the external threads of the adjustment portion of the shaft such that the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft by rotating the adjustment mechanism with respect to the adjustment portion of the shaft; and

b) a second sleeve having the the fastener engaging portion disposed thereon;
wherein the adjustment mechanism is adapted to move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft to adjust a distance between the fastener engaging portion and the cutting portion of the shaft;

wherein the distance between the fastener engaging portion and the cutting portion of the shaft may be adjusted such that the fastener engaging portion engages the head portion of the fastener and the cutting portion of the shaft extends beyond the tip of the fastener.